Fiscal Estimate - 2005 Session

X	Original		Updated		Corrected		Suppleme	ntal	
LRB	Number	05-0475/1		Intro	duction Nu	mber S	B-270		
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DOT/ Dennis Hughes (608) 267-9075 Julie Jol				ulie Johnsor	Johnson (608) 267-3703 8/3/2005				

Fiscal Estimate Narratives DOT 8/3/2005

LRB Number 05	-0475/1	Introduction Number	SB-270	Estimate Type	Original
Subject					
Increase speed lim	nit to 75 miles per	hour			

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill would raise the maximum allowable speed limit on freeways and expressways from 65 miles per hour (mph) to 75 mph. The higher limit would not be effective unless the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) physically posts the new limit.

The bill would not change WisDOT's existing discretion to post freeways/expressways at speeds below the statutory maximum. WisDOT could choose to maintain some freeway/expressway segments at current speed limits, or could raise some of them to 75 mph, or could raise some of them to a speed limit between the current limit and 75 mph.

For purposes of this fiscal estimate, it is assumed WisDOT would increase the posted speed limit to 70 mph or 75 mph on every mile of freeway that is currently posted at 65 mph, but would NOT increase the posted speed limit on any expressway segment.

The WisDOT sign inventory data base indicates there are 715 "65 mph speed limit" signs on the statewide freeway and expressway system. Most of these (531) are on freeways.

There are two component costs to replace a freeway speed limit sign:

- (1) The fabrication cost of each freeway speed limit sign (48" x 60") is \$148.32
- (2) The change out process cost (based on typical labor charges and fleet mileage costs for county highway department personnel and vehicles) is \$90.00 per sign.

It is assumed that entire sign posts will not have to be replaced, so therefore no costs are estimated for holes to be augered or for new sign posts.

Cost to change one "65 mph speed limit" freeway sign: \$148.32 + \$90.00 = \$238.32/sign

Total cost to change all 531 freeway "65 mph speed limit": 531 signs x \$238.32/sign = \$126,547.92

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

If a policy decision is made by WisDOT management not to raise the speed limit to 75 mph on every mile of freeway, but rather to identify segments of the freeway system on which the posted speed limit could be raised to 70 mph or 75 mph without compromising safety or traffic operations, then costs will be incurred to conduct the requisite traffic engineering analyses. These costs are indeterminate.

Fiscal Estimate Worksheet - 2005 Session

Detailed Estimate of Annual Fiscal Effect

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